

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 9-10, 12-13 and 15-16 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 7, 9, 12, 13 and 15 have been amended. Claims 2-6, 8, 11, 14, 17-18 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant respectfully traverses. However, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended and are believed to be definite and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Maciej M. Syslo, "On the Fundamental Cycle Set Graph" IEEE, March 1982, pages 136-138 ("Syslo"). The Patent Office rejected claims 1, 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over David S. Johnson, "The NP-Completeness: An Ongoing Guide," published in J. Algorithms 2, 393-405 (1981), pages 1-12 ("Johnson").

Applicant respectfully traverses each rejection. However, claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 2, 12 and 14 respectively. Applicant wishes to seek expeditious issuance of a patent containing claims directed to subject matter found allowable by the Patent Office. However, Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejections of claims 1, 7 and 13, and reserves the right to present claims drawn to the same or similar subject matter for consideration in a continuing application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Patent Office indicated that Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-18 are objected to as being dependent upon an allowable base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

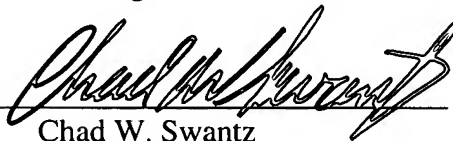
Applicant thanks the Patent Office for the indication of allowable subject matter.

CONCLUSION

The application is respectfully submitted to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. In the event the indication of allowability is withdrawn, applicants reserve the right to amend the claims back to the original form for further prosecution, without prejudice, disclaimer or estoppel. In the event that issues arise in the application that may readily be resolved via telephone, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned Attorney at (402) 496-0300 to facilitate prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
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